

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

The definition of a father should not be limited to being the male parent in a child's life but every father should raise a successful child, one who is both strong and respectable. Thus, no matter the situation of the marriage or family, every father must take the time to be a dad as well as a friend, disciplinarian, shoulder to cry on, dance partner, coach, audience, adviser, listener, and so much more. From the little things to the great things, fathers have an opportunity to be everything for their children. All must be done with love then it makes all the difference in the world. A father figure is usually an older man, normally one with power, authority, or strength.

Fathers had a primary responsibility to see to the moral and academic education of their children. Formal education was closely associated with moral education, as bad behavior could damage one's material fortunes as well as one's reputation. Fathers were thought to combine the authority necessary to enforce discipline in their children with the affection necessary to discipline them for their benefit. Moreover, fathers were thought to provide an example which their children would imitate, whether for good or for ill. The importance of fathers as a symbol of instruction and advice caused other educators to borrow fatherly status

for themselves, making the alliance between fathers and teachers fraught with tension. The unique significance of fathers to medieval people derived from their location at the intersection of education and provision. There were many affectionate comrades and many forms of authority in medieval society, but only fathers were both.

*Beautiful* is a movie which tells to be a father. A single parent refers to a parent who has most of the day to day responsibilities in the raising of the child or children. In western society in general following separation a child will end up with the primary caregiver usually the mother and a secondary caregiver usually the father. One of the most difficult things a single parent can struggle with is having to do everything by themselves with no one else to blame if it does not get done.

*Beautiful* is a drama film directed by Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu. This name uses Spanish naming customs the first or paternal family name is González and the second or maternal family name is Iñárritu.

Alejandro González Iñárritu was born on August 15, 1963 is a Mexican film director. González Iñárritu is the first Mexican director to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director and by the Directors Guild of America for Best Director. He is also the first and only Mexican born director to have won the Prix de la mise en scene or best director award at Cannes (2006). His four feature films *Amores perros* (2000), *21*

Grams (2003), Babel (2006) and Biutiful (2010) have gained critical acclaim worldwide including 12 Academy Award nominations.

He studied communications at Universidad Iberoamericana while simultaneously starting his career as a radio host in 1984 at the Mexican radio station WFM. In 1988 he became the director of this rock and eclectic music station, becoming for five years the number one radio station in Mexico City for young audiences. From 1987 to 1989, he composed music for six Mexican feature films, including *Garra de tigre* (1989). He has called himself a frustrated musician and music has had more influence on him than film.

He studied theater with well known Polish film director Ludwik Margules. He later studied directing actors in Maine and Los Angeles under Judith Weston. In the nineties he created Z films with Raul Olvera in order to start writing, producing and directing feature films, short films, audio, advertisements, and television programs. By 1995, Z films was one of the biggest and strongest film production companies in Mexico created with seven young directors that then all went on to direct feature films.

His latest film, *Biutiful*, starring Javier Bardem, premiered at Cannes on May 17, 2010, with Bardem winning for Best Actor (shared with Elio Germano for *La Nostra Vita*). It is his first film in his native language since his debut feature *Amores perros*. It has been selected as the Mexican entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 83rd Academy Awards. It made the January shortlist and then made the final list of five

nominees. It was also been nominated for the 2011 Golden Globes in the category of Best Foreign Film, for the 2011 BAFTA awards in the category of Best Film Not in the English Language and Best Actor, and for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film and Best Actor.

This movie took 3 and half years to make, since the beginning of the writing process. It was shot between October 2008 and February 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. It was a Mexican and Spanish production. 2010 release in Mexico and Spain. 2011 release in Indonesia.

The film competed for the Palme d'Or at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival. It premiered at Cannes on May 17, 2010, with Bardem winning for Best Actor, an award shared with Elio Germano for *La Nostra Vita*. On December 17, 2010, the film was named Best Foreign Language Film of 2010 at the 17th Dallas-Fort Worth Film Critics Association Awards.

On January 25, 2011, the film was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 83rd Academy Awards while Javier Bardem received a nomination for Best Actor. The film is also nominated for the 64th British Academy Film Awards for Best Film not in the English Language, while Javier Bardem was nominated for Best Actor. *Biutiful* received eight nominations for the 25th Goya Awards; Best Actor for Javier Bardem, Best Supporting Actor for Eduard Fernández, Best Supporting Actress for Ana Wagener, Best Original Screenplay for Alejandro González Iñárritu, Armando Bó and Nicolás Giacobone, Best Cinematography for Rodrigo Prieto, Best Editing for Stephen Mirrione,

Best Art Direction for Brigitte Broch and Best Original Score for Gustavo Santaolalla.

The film was also nominated at the 16th Critics' Choice Award for Best Foreign Language Film and the 68th Golden Globe Awards for Best Foreign Film, but lost to *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *In a Better World*, respectively.

*Biutiful* is a movie about Uxbal lives in a shabby apartment in Barcelona with his two young children, Ana and Mateo. He is separated from their mother Marambra, an unreliable and reckless woman suffering from alcoholism and bipolar disorder. Having grown up an orphan, Uxbal has no family other than his brother Tito, who works in the construction business. Uxbal earns a living by organizing the work of illegal immigrants, a group of Chinese producing forged goods and a group of African street vendors selling them. He is able to talk to the dead and is sometimes paid to pass on messages from the recently deceased at wakes and funerals. Just as he is diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer and is told that he has only a few months to live, his world progressively falls apart.

Uxbal initially begins chemotherapy, but ends the treatment at the advice of his friend and traditional healer Bea. She also gives him two black stones which she asks him to give his children before he dies. The group of Africans are brutally arrested by the police despite Uxbal's regular bribes. As his friend Ekweme faces deportation to Senegal, Uxbal

offers Ekweme's wife Ige and their baby son a room in his apartment. Meanwhile, an attempt at reconciliation with Marambra fails when Uxbal realizes she cannot be trusted with his children. Tito brokers a deal to put the Chinese to work at a construction site. However, almost all of them die in their sleep the basement of their sweatshop due to malfunctioning gas heaters which Uxbal provided to heat their clammy sleeping quarters. An attempt by the human trafficker to dump the bodies of the Chinese into the sea fails when they are washed up on the shore shortly after.

As Uxbal's health continues to deteriorate, he is plagued with guilt that he is responsible for the death of the illegal immigrants. As his death draws nearer, he realizes that there will be nobody to take care of Ana and Mateo once he is gone. He entrusts the remainder of his savings to Ige, asking her to stay with the children after his death. She accepts his request, but later decides to use the money to pay for her return to Africa. However, she changes her mind at the last minute and returns to the apartment. Knowing that Ige will take care of his children, Uxbal lies down next to Ana and dies after having passed on to her a diamond ring which his father had once given to his mother. After his death, he is reunited in a snowy winter landscape with his father, who had died before Uxbal's birth shortly after having fled Spain for Mexico during the Franco regime.

*Biutiful* is the successful movie and interesting for many people. *Biutiful* movie has three reasons which make the researcher was interested

in this movie. The first is the major character of this movie, Uxbal to be a single parent and lives in a shabby apartment in Barcelona with his two young children, Ana and Mateo. He is separated from their mother Marambra, an unreliable and reckless woman suffering from alcoholism and bipolar disorder. Although he was ill he still wanted her son happy. After his death, he is reunited in a snowy winter landscape with his father, who had died before Uxbal's birth shortly after having fled Spain for Mexico during the Franco regime.

The second reason is the uncommon story, *Biutiful* is a love story between a father and his children. This is the journey of Uxbal, a conflicted man who struggles to reconcile fatherhood, love, spirituality, crime, guilt and mortality amidst the dangerous underworld of modern Barcelona. His livelihood is earned out of bounds, his sacrifices for his children know no bounds. Like life itself, this is a circular tale that ends where it begins. As fate encircles him and thresholds are crossed, a dim, redemptive road brightens, illuminating.

The last reason is this film is also about death. The western view of storytelling can only view death from a particular perspective. *Biutiful* movie presents with characters who are complex and struggling with doing what they think is right. Uxbal raises his young daughter Ana and son Mateo alone, struggling to make ends meet. There is no easy redemption for Uxbal. In fact the men in this film are all trying to be good fathers.

From those reasons, the writer found the existence from the major character from this movie for life and he has mission to do. Uxbal existence becomes an issue chosen by the researcher in this movie. In the philosophy of existentialism, Jean Paul Sartre views each person as an isolated being who is the subject into an alien universe, and conceives the world as possessing no inherent human truth, value, or meaning. A person's life as it moves from the nothingness from which it comes toward the nothingness where it must end, defines an existence which is both anguished and absurd.

Based on the reason the writer will observe *Biutiful* movie by using existentialist theory by Kierkegaard and Jean Paul Sartre. So the writer constructs the title **TO BE A FATHER IN BIUTIFUL MOVIE (2011) DIRECTED BY ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ IÑÁRRITU: EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

There is no previous study related to be a father in *Biutiful* movie at least among University in Central Java; such as Sebelas Maret University os Surakarta, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, Diponegoro University, Gajah Mada University. There is some review about *Biutiful* movie. First reviewed by Phil on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 10:53am, Uxbal (Bardem) is a man trapped in dire financial straits. None of his work is strictly legal. His day to day existence involves bribing police, helping his illegal workers avoid the authorities and trying to be a good father to

his son and daughter. Worse still, he is plagued with health problems. The film is a gritty examination of life very near the bottom in a major European city suffering the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis. Second reviewed by By Terry Ong on Friday, April 27, 2011, Javier Bardem's character Uxbal, an everyday man at the tether of his existence, talks to ghosts. It is a world where physical and metaphysical realms are equally desperate. Iñárritu grimly trawls the shadows of Barcelona's illegal immigration, poverty and police corruption, juxtaposed against Uxbal's marital and parental dysfunction and physical illness to bring us the perfect film about existentialism and the supernatural world. For many filmmakers, paranormal parlance would be sufficient fascination. Not so Iñárritu, for whom multiple narratives are the norm and straight horror is not the intent of this heartbreaking tour de force.

Different from the previous reviewer, the writer has a different perspective in analyzing the data. The writer uses an existentialist approach to analyze the data in *Biutiful (2011)* movie as an object. The writer analyzes to be father reflected in *Biutiful (2011)* movie by using existentialist approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and background above, the writer formulates the problem statement as follow: "How is to be a father reflected in *Biutiful* movie?"

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this researcher in analyzing to the role of a father in *Biutiful* movie based on Kierkegaard and Jean Paul Sartre theory of existentialism.

**E. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze *Biutiful* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe to the role of a father in *Biutiful* movie based on an existentialist approach.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The study of father's existence in *Biutiful* movie has two benefits:

**1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is expected to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Biutiful* movie.

**2. Practical Benefit**

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another university who have interest with literary study on the movie from Existentialist approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

#### **a. Type of the Data**

The data of this study are image and text in *Biutiful* movie directed by alejandro gonzález inárritu.

#### **b. The Data Source**

- 1) The primary data source is the film and script of *Biutiful* movie by alejandro gonzález inárritu which is related to the study.
- 2) The secondary data sources are the books and other sources that support the analysis.

### **3. Object of the Study**

The object of this study is in *Biutiful* movie directed by alejandro gonzález inárritu and publishing by Sony Home Pictures Entertainment in 2010. It is analyzed by using existentialist approach.

### **4. Techniques of the Data Collection**

The method of data collection in this study is note-taking and image-capturing. The researcher views the primary data repeatedly to reach more understanding of source. Next, the writer takes, compares,

quotes, and studies others data into some categories and develops them into a good unity.

## **5. Techniques of Data Analysis**

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the next and content relating to the psychological condition of the major character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

There are concerns with the structural elements of the movie, researcher uses existentialist approach, and draws conclusion.

### **a. Structural Elements Analysis of the Movie**

The activity involves synthesizing the information obtained from data source into a coherent description. In this research the data are taken from watching movie. The researcher makes some notes about structural elements in the watching a movie. Thus the data give illustration clearly. And it will be easier to collect the next data. Then the researcher makes a coherent description from the notes.

### **b. Analysis of Existentialist Approach**

In this research the data are taken from watching movie. The researcher makes some notes about existentialist of the movie because the researcher uses existentialist approach. Thus the data give illustration clearly. And it will be easier to collect the next

data. Then the researcher makes a coherent description from the notes.

c. Drawing Conclusion

The last step is drawing conclusion and giving suggestion based on the data analysis.

## H. Research Paper Organization

The writer systematizes this research of “to be a father in *Beautiful* movie (2011) Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu: An Existentialist Approach” is as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents The notion of Existentialism, Sartre’s Major Theory of Existentialism, Structural Elements of the movie and Theoretical Application. Chapter III deals with the structural analysis of the work, which consists of character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, theme, and discussion. Chapter IV presents the Existentialism analysis. Chapter V presents Conclusion and Suggestion.